

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 110065
ORIGIN SS-25

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-----119629 300308Z /61/70
O 300202Z APR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 110065

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXTUAL LINES 22 THRU 42 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, AF, PINT, UR

SUBJECT:ASYLUM REQUEST

REF: KABUL 3326

1. AS YOU ARE AWARE, IT IS US POLICY NOT TO GRANT ASYLUM
AT ITS INSTALLATIONS ABROAD. HOWEVER, IMMEDIATE AND
TEMPORARY REFUGE FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS MAY BE GRANTED.
WE AGREE WITH YOUR ASSESSMENT THAT IF COLONEL DIN MOHAMMED
IS APPREHENDED UNDER THE PRESENT UNSETTLED CONDITIONS, HE
WILL MOST PROBABLY BE EXECUTED.

2. FYI: WE ARE SURE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE SERIOUS POLITICAL
AND PRACTICAL PROBLEMS IN PRESENT SITUATION. IF AFGHANS

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BECOME AWARE OF HIS PRESENCE IN AIR ATTACHE RESIDENCE, WE
RISK INVASION OF AMERICAN PREMISES BY AFGHAN SECURITY
FORCES WITH POSSIBLE INJURY TO AMERICAN CITIZENS. ANY
SUCH ACTION COULD HAVE EXTREMELY SERIOUS POLITICAL
REPRECUSSIONS POSSIBLY THREATENING THE SAFETY AND WELL-
BEING OF 1000 PLUS AMERICANS IN AFGHANISTAN. NEEDLESS TO
SAY, OUR RELATIONS WITH NEW REGIME COULD BE JEOPARDISED

BY THIS SITUATION. END FYI.

WE FEEL THAT YOU SHOULD FRANKLY DISCUSS THE PROBLEM WITH COL. DIN MOHAMMED. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WE SEE NO WAY WE COULD ASSIST IN HIS DEPARTURE FROM AFGHANISTAN. WE HAVE NO EFFECTIVE CONTACT WITH THE NEW REGIME AND JUDGE THAT ANY OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION ON HIS BEHALF WOULD INCREASE THE RISKS FOR HIM RATHER THAN ALLIEVIATE THEM. THE LONGER HE STAYS ON AMERICAN PREMISES, THE GREATER THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE REGIME WILL BECOME AWARE OF IT AND MAKE AN ESCAPE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE. GIVEN THE FACT THAT THE AUTHORITIES NOW BELIEVE HIM DEAD, IT MAY BE TO HIS ADVANTAGE TO USE HIS OWN RESOURCES TO ATTEMPT TO REACH THE BORDER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER THE PAKISTANI OR IRANIAN EMBASSIES MIGHT BE OF MORE USE IN THIS SITUATION. (EMBASSY AT ITS DISCRETION MAY ASSIST BY MAKING CONTACTS).

4. IN THE MEANTIME, AMBASSADOR MAY WISH TO CONSIDER WHETHER IT PRACTICABLE AND DESIRABLE TO MOVE THE COLONEL TO THE EMBASSY, THUS REDUCING THE RISKS TO COLONEL PIPER AND FAMILY. IF SUCH A MOVE IS MADE, YOU SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE CAN GRANT ONLY TEMPORARY REFUGE. HOWEVER, HE MAY REMAIN IF THERE IS IMMINENT DANGER TO HIS LIFE. VANCE

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